

## Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 L-03 EB-11 SCA-01 H-03 INR-10

DLOS-06 PRS-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 SCS-03 SAB-01 SS-20

NSC-07 SP-03 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01

USIE-00 /090 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 413

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 2244

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PN

SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF US TUNA FISHING VESSEL

REF: STATE 078883

1. EMBASSY HAS JUST BEEN INFORMED BY SHIPPING AGENT REPRESENTING TUNA BOAT, RAFFAELLO, THAT MINISTRY OF TREASURY AND FINANCE OFFICIAL HAS OFFICIALLY ADVISED HIM THAT A FINE OF \$57,200 WILL BE LEVIED ON THE RAFFAELLO AND THAT THE ENTIRE CATCH WILL BE CONSISCATED. SHIPPING AGENT VERY CONCERNED ABOUT CONFISCATION OF TUNA FISH SINCE IT WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK TO UNLOAD BOAT AS PANAMA DOES NOT HAVE PROPER FACILITIES. SHIPPING AGENT SAYS THEY HAVE REQUESTED LAWYER TO ADVISE THEM ALTHOUGH HE NOT ACTING OFFICIALLY YET.

2. FOR DEPARTMENT ONLY: SHIPPING AGENT, WHO HAS BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT SINCE BEGINNING WITH CIVILIAN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, REPORTS THAT THEY ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT ENTIRE INCIDENT AND ITS POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS ON CANAL NEGOTIATIONS. AGENT IS OF OPINION THAT SEIZURE WAS UNILATERAL DECISION OF PANAMA NATIONAL GUARD. HIS VIEW SUPPORTED BY FACT THAT MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO LEVIED FINE  
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INDICATED THAT THE AMOUNT TO BE LEVIED WAS COMMUNICATED

TO HIM BY DEPUTY COMMANDER OF NATIONAL GUARD.

3. ILL SEAMAN LEFT BY AIR FOR U.S. AT 12:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME. CAPTAIN AND CREW NOT UNDER ARREST AND BEING TREATED WELL. THEY ARE CONFINED TO VESSEL WHICH IS ANCHORED IN PANAMA BAY. CAPTAIN SPENT NIGHT IN NATIONAL GUARD POST ON DOCK.

4. EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH GOP OFFICIALS ON THIS CASE BUT ONLY TO REQUEST INFORMATION RE APPLICABLE PANAMANIAN LAW AND TO FACILITATE THE DEPARTURE OF SICK CREWMAN. DOES DEPARTMENT WISH EMBASSY TO MAKE ANY FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS ON THIS CASE?  
EMBASSY, OF COURSE, WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE MATTER INFORMALLY.

5. COMMENT: MR. FALENDI, ATTORNEY FOR AMERICAN TUNA ASSOCIATION, CALLED CONSUL AT 2:50 P.M. (LOCAL TIME) APRIL 18 TO INQUIRE OF DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING SEIZURE OF RAFFAELLO. CONSUL INFORMED FALENDI: (A) RELEASE OF SEAMAN HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AND SEAMAN FLOWN TO US; (B) PROPOSED FINE OF \$57,200; AND (C) POSSIBILITY THAT TUNA CATCH MIGHT BE CONFISCATED. FALENDI BECAME VERY AGITATED IN CONVERSATION WITH CONSUL. FINE DID NOT SEEM TO CONCERN FALENDI AS MUCH AS FACT THAT CATCH MIGHT BE UNLOADED. CONSUL TOLD FALENDI HE WOULD BE KEPT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.  
JORDEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIP DETENTION, TUNA, FISHING DISPUTES, FISHING BOATS, RAFFAELLO  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 APR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Film Number:** D740090-1007  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** STATE 078883  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SEIZURE OF US TUNA FISHING VESSEL  
**TAGS:** EFIS, PN, US  
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